



## Ad Rekkers says “Ayo” to Aruba with a last show at the Insight Art Gallery

On Sunday evening, May 20, a final show of artist and teacher Ad Rekkers opened at the Insight Gallery for the Arts in Paradera Park. Ad, who came to Aruba nine years ago as part of an art project, has spent his time in Aruba working as a substitute teacher, and finally for the last four years on the staff of the Schakel Primary School. He is returning to Holland to set up a household for himself and his daughter Jara before she goes off to university.

Best known on Aruba for his innovative use of driftwood in his work, Ad has been a featured artist at the South End Art Gallery in San Nicolas and the Oranjestad Kunsthuis Gallery as well as being regularly included in the group expositions at Insight. This last solo show will be on display until June 7, and is a good example of the versatility and humor of the artist. His whimsical pieces have enormous appeal, particular for children, as could be seen in their enjoyment and curiosity about his work. Many of Ad Rekker’s students came to his opening accompanied by their parents, and his colorful, imaginative pieces piqued their interest.

Ad expressed that appreciation for children in his work is quite intention, as he particularly wishes to motivate them to be creative. His pieces are only numbered, and not named, which is another way of sparking the imagination, not forcing observers into a particular interpretation of his pieces. Two sculptures may look like snakes to some, or city skylines to others, in day and night. Other works evoke these flights of fancy, making them quite successful as to the intention of the artist.

In a short goodbye message, Ad states that the tropical light and life of Aruba created in him an enthusiasm for his work, and the driftwood encouraged him to experiment. His intriguing experiments are on display five days a week, from 9:30 to 5:00 PM, and curator Alida Martinez can be contacted at 568-9168 to arrange a tour of the gallery.

This last show of Ad Rekkers is titled “Partir C’est mourir un peu” (Leaving is to die a little,) which expresses his sadness at leaving his adopted community in Aruba, a community that welcomed his humor and artistic expression. Hopefully, he will return someday.